

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An antimicrobial composition comprising:
tetraivalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles represented by Formula (1); and
inorganic compound particles having a Mohs hardness of equal to or less than 6;
the maximum particle size of these particles being substantially equal to or less than 10 μm



(in the formula, Q denotes at least one type of ion selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion, and hydrogen ion, M is a tetraivalent metal ion, \underline{n} is a number satisfying $0 \leq n \leq 6$, \underline{a} and \underline{b} are both positive numbers, \underline{m} is the valence of Q, and $a + mb = 1$),

wherein the tetraivalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles and the inorganic compound particles have an average particle size of 0.1 to 5 μm , and

the average particle size of the inorganic compound particles is equal to or smaller than the average particle size of the tetraivalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles.

2-3. (canceled).

4. (original): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic compound particles are anatase titanium dioxide having no photocatalytic activity.

5. (original): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the mixing ratio of the tetravalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles and the inorganic compound particles is 95:5 to 10:90.

6. (previously presented): An antimicrobial product comprising the antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1.

7-8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented): An antimicrobial product comprising the antimicrobial composition according to Claim 4.

10. (previously presented): An antimicrobial product comprising the antimicrobial composition according to Claim 5.

11. (previously presented): The antimicrobial product according to Claim 6, wherein the antimicrobial product is an antimicrobial fiber or an antimicrobial film.

12-13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented): The antimicrobial product according to Claim 9, wherein the antimicrobial product is an antimicrobial fiber or an antimicrobial film.

15. (previously presented): The antimicrobial product according to Claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial product is an antimicrobial fiber or an antimicrobial film.

16. (previously presented): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic compound particles have a Mohs hardness of 3.0 to 6.0.

17. (previously presented): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic compound particles are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum potassium sulfate, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, MgO, calcium phosphate, talc, mica, anatase titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, colloidal silica, and aluminum silicate hydrate.

18. (previously presented): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum particle size of the tetravalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles and the inorganic compound particles are substantially equal to or less than 5 μm .

19. (previously presented): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the tetravalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles and the inorganic compound particles have an average particle size of 0.1 to 2 μm .

20. (new): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the tetravalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles and the inorganic compound particles is in the range of 0.2 to 2 μm .

21. (new): The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the tetravalent metal phosphate-based antimicrobial particles and the inorganic compound particles is in the range of 0.4 to 0.9 μm .

22. (new): An antimicrobial resin composition consisting essentially of a resin and the antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1 and optionally further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an organic antimold agent, a deodorant, a flame retardant, an antistatic agent, a pigment, an inorganic ion exchanger, a corrosion inhibitor, a UV absorber, an antioxidant, a negative ion ceramic, and a construction material.